

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. Applicants elect with traverse Group XVII (Claims 21-22) for examination on the merits. No election in species is required because one of Groups I to XII was not elected. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute nonelected subject matter in a further patent application.

Notwithstanding the above election, reconsideration of the restriction requirement is requested because examination of all pending claims would not constitute a serious burden. Although the inventions identified by the Examiner are separately patentable, both the need for compact prosecution and the public interest would be served by examination of all claims in a single application.


In particular, the claims of Groups V to VIII and XVII should be examined in the same application. Thus, claims 7, 9-12 and 15-18 should not be withdrawn from consideration.

Furthermore, under the Commissioner's Notice of March 26, 1996 (1184 OG 86) implementing the Federal Circuit's decisions of *In re Ochiai*, 37 USPQ2d 1127 (1995) and *In re Brouwer*, 37 USPQ2d 1663 (1996), Applicants request rejoinder of process claims 7, 9-12 and 15-18 (see Groups V to VIII) upon an indication that a product claim of Group XVII is allowable.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
Gary R. Tanigawa
Reg. No. 43,180

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100